

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY357719
Inspection date	08 July 2008
Inspector	Clare Stone
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Childminding

ABOUT THIS INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality of childcare and, if applicable, of nursery education. The inspection was carried out under Part XA Children Act 1989 as introduced by the Care Standards Act 2000 and, where nursery education is provided, under Schedule 26 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

This report details the main strengths and any areas for improvement identified during the inspection. The judgements included in the report are made in relation to the outcomes for children set out in the Children Act 2004; the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding; and, where nursery education is provided, the *Curriculum guidance for the foundation stage*.

The report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration or 1 April 2004 whichever is the later.

The key inspection judgements and what they mean

Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality

Good: this aspect of the provision is strong

Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound

Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough

For more information about early years inspections, please see the booklet *Are you ready for your inspection?* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 2007. She lives with her family in Faversham, Kent. The whole ground floor area and two bedrooms of the house are used for minding children. There is also an upstairs toilet for the children to use. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The family has a large indoor fish aquarium. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time. The childminder drives or walks to local schools to take and collect children. She also attends the local Parent and Toddler Group. The childminder is able to support children with learning difficulties/disabilities. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association. She receives support from the Local Authority.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The childminder follows good hygiene practices and explains so children learn the importance of good personal hygiene. Children know why they need to wash their hands after visiting the toilet, before preparing and eating food and after playing. Children receive snacks that are healthy and the childminder has a good understanding of healthy eating options for children.

Children can help themselves to a drink whenever they need one and the childminder encourages children to drink plenty especially in warm weather to prevent dehydration. Food is carefully prepared and complies with dietary and religious needs.

Children have daily physical exercise, large play equipment in garden, going to the park, local walks, shopping trips, swimming and other outings. These help them understand the need for regular exercise as part of a healthy lifestyle. Children who are infectious do not attend thus preventing the spread of contagious ailments. The childminder holds a current first aid certificate so is able to administer first aid in the event of an accident.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children benefit from playing in a spacious well organised environment. This allows them to move around safely. They have easy and safe access to toys and resources appropriate for their age. Toys and resources are carefully selected to ensure they are suitable and these are checked regularly to ensure there are no broken parts that could harm a child. Children enjoy their play in a safe secure environment. A risk assessment of the house is carried out every evening and all necessary steps have been taken to minimise risks. Children cannot access rooms or items that could be dangerous. The childminder sets up the night before so she is organised for the next day.

Children have free access to a large garden and they are supervised when playing to remove the risk of injury. The garden is fully enclosed and the childminder checks all equipment regularly for stability. The childminder has clear procedures for outings. Children learn about road safety and the importance of using crossings. The childminder also checks playgrounds for potential hazards.

The childminder has a some knowledge of child protection procedures and possible signs of abuse. She has attended training in this area but is not clear on all aspects. This compromises the protection of the children in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are very happy, relaxed and confident. They approach the childminder for support indicating good relationships are being built. The childminder is warm and affectionate making children feel comfortable and valued. Children relate well to childminder and other minded children and are beginning to form close relationships with their peers and adults. The childminder encourages children to do things for themselves and gives good support when children are learning new skills. Children enjoy and learn from a good range of activities. Good quality, stimulating toys provide balance and challenge. The childminder has a qualification in Early Years and is aware of how children develop and learn. At the time of the inspection children enjoyed digging in the garden and making a dinosaur land. The childminder follows the children's interest and helps extend their play.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder has a good understanding of equality of opportunity and has a positive attitude towards diversity. Children are treated with respect and are made to feel good about themselves.

The childminder acknowledges differences as positive. All children have access to and enjoy a good range of resources that promote equality and reflect positive images of diversity including gender, culture and disability.

The childminder has good knowledge and experience of working with children with learning difficulties and is happy to support all the children in care. She is aware that working with other professionals is imperative and would seek advice from them.

Children behaved very well during the inspection. They were busy playing and having a great time in the garden. The childminder knows that children like praise and encouragement and talks to the children in a kind and reassuring manner. All parents are involved with any behaviour issues. There is a policy in place that reflects this.

Childminder gathers all relevant information before children are placed in her care ensuring they can be cared for appropriately, for example food likes and dislikes, medical conditions, GP details, activities enjoyed and special words. Parents are kept fully informed of the childminder's practice ensuring children's continued support.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from well-organised space, time and resources and they receive sufficient adult support to help them feel secure and confident. The childminder keeps herself well informed of current childcare practices by attending appropriate courses. All relevant documentation is in place and very well maintained. The childminder plans activities for the children and records these for parents to view. Records are easily accessible. The childminder is aware of confidentiality and stores her records accordingly.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides care.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaints record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

The quality and standards of the care

To improve the quality and standards of care further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- revisit child protection procedures and possible signs of abuse

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Complaints about Ofsted Early Years: concerns or complaints about Ofsted's role in regulating and inspecting childcare and early education* (HMI ref no 2599) which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk